



RELIGION

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Religion Editor, Portland Observer
P.O. Box 3137
Portland OR 97208



RELIGION UPDATE

by Dee Armstrong

North Portland Bible College was founded in 1982 when several concerned Christians "shared their vision for a community-based Bible college in North Portland. We have seen God at work implementing the vision," reported *Northern Lights* Vol. 2 publication, of June, 1984. And in 1985 North Portland Bible College is still growing strong.

I am currently attending North Portland Bible College and I would like to add my personal testimony on a job well done.

When I invited Jesus into my life, I knew to be an effective member in the body of Christ I would be required to understand and know his word. After much prayer and consulting, my pastor and I began to search for a good Bible college. However, I did not realize the enormous financial requirements placed upon a Christian education. I had looked into every Christian Bible college in the metropolitan area, overlooking NPBC simply because it was so small; it was in NE Portland; surely NPBC had nothing to offer me. I knew that the Lord wanted me to attend the best. How can the best be small and unaccredited? Remember: Jesus liked to take something little and make it Great so the Father may be glorified in Heaven. Knowing this Jesus made a way by the love and kindness of Sister Beth Nance, a staff member.

Today I am blessed to be a student at NPBC. The rewards are endless.

This week's UPDATE with food for thought: I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. — Psalm 40:1-2.

Singles Ministry at Maranatha, 1222 N.E. Skidmore St., May 19th. Senior Saints will be blessed with a Sunday dinner and program at 2:00 p.m. after church services. Please invite seniors from your church and bring them with you.

Those planning to attend the Singles Conference this year, mark your calendars for July 18 - 21 in sunny San Bernardino, California. For more information, call 288-7241.

Evangelist S. E. Mitchell of Dallas, Texas, will be in "revival" May 19 - 26 with Greater Mt. Calvary C.O.G.I.C., 1234 N.E. Killingsworth, Bishop H. B. Daniels, pastor. The public is welcome.

The Institute in Basic Youth Conflicts will again this year be filling auditoriums from coast to coast. The Pacific Northwest is well represented: May 13 - 18: Vancouver, B.C., (604)271-3105
June 24 - 29: Oakland, CA, (415)948-4287
July 15 - 20: Anchorage, AK, (907)276-7177
July 22 - 27: Portland, OR (503)256-0148
Oct. 7 - 12: Seattle, WA, (206)838-4270
Nov. 11 - 16: Calgary, Alberta (403)252-0442

"Possessing the land with Worship and Prayer" is the rally at Pioneer Square in downtown Portland, 7 p.m., on May 24th. Continuing to build momentum, Psalms 150 Evangelism Outreach will march through town to the waterfront claiming for the Lord, the land which will be the site of Rose Festival activities, (503)231-5155.

Union Gospel Mission will hold their star-studded international convention in Seattle, May 25 - 29. Featured speakers will include Rosie Grier, Norma Zimmer, Jerry Dunn, Florence Littauer, Dr. Joe Aldrich and Bruce Larson, (206)622-5177.

Friars offer sanctuary

by Robert Lothian

Fr. Loren Kirkoff, O.F.M., pastor of St. Clare Roman Catholic Church in Southwest Portland, led his West Coast province of 300 Franciscan friars to offer sanctuary to Central American refugees.

Kirkoff said some friars feel strongly enough about the issue that they are willing to break the law.

The Reagan administration has defined the refugees as illegal aliens. Transporting or harboring illegal aliens is a violation of immigration laws, and several sanctuary activists have been tried by the government.

"Certainly, some friars are willing to go to jail on this," said Kirkoff, but so far local support has been limited to fundraising for the Portland Sanctuary Coalition and for a Spokane church that is helping a refugee family.

The Franciscans will offer their houses as places of sanctuary, if necessary, and they will stand behind sanctuary activists with legal help, he said.

Kirkoff said he first formed a sanctuary education committee and organized a workshop. After hearing the story of a Guatemalan woman at the workshop, the friars voted unanimously to support sanctuary, he said.

"The more groups like this that step in and take a stand, the more hesitant the administration will be to take on groups that oppose its policies," said Kirkoff.

At the heart of it, this is a difference over Central America policies. Our government policy is illegal," he said.

"If there is a poor or oppressed person, we should help them, it's the Gospel. These are our brothers and sisters. We need to work with them and help them attain their human dignity."

Kirkoff said he has a problem with the administration "labelling as communist those who are really working with the poor. Even the Bible has become a subversive document" in parts of Central America, he said.

When the Reagan administration and Central American dictators justify atrocities in the name of God, he said, the church has an obligation to speak out.

Speaking out is nothing new for the Franciscans; many have been active in the peace movement, according to Kirkoff.

The 800-year-old order of Roman Catholic men, known for their brown robes, has traditionally followed the example of their patron, St. Francis, in siding with the poor and oppressed, he said.

Interracial workshop set

"But what about the children?" is the question constantly asked of parents of interracial children. In order to address that question, the Council on Interracial Books for Children (CIBC) and the Ecumenical Parish of North and Northeast Portland are sponsoring a one-day workshop on "Children of Interracial Families." The workshop will be held on Saturday, June 1, 1985, at the Mallory Avenue Christian Church, 126 N.E. Alberta, Portland.

The workshop will focus on the development of positive self-identity in interracial children. Small group workshops will be given on identity and the young child, the interracial adolescent, single parents with interracial children, grandparents and family networks, and remarriage and the interracial child. There will be keynote speakers and a panel of interracial adults discussing positive approaches to raising interracial children.

Registration for the workshop is free; lunch will be provided for \$3.50 per person. Childcare will be provided for \$2/child; \$3.50 with lunch. For pre-registration information, call Rev. Marge Green at (503)288-5173.

Hale to read recent work

Native American novelist and poet Janet Campbell Hale will read from her recent work at Portland State University, Monday, May 20, at 7:30 p.m., in 298 Smith Center, 1825 S.W. Broadway. Hale's reading is free and open to the public.

Janet Campbell Hale, a member of the Coeur D'Alene Tribe, currently lives in Bellingham, Washington. She will be Writer in Residence next year at the University of Washington.

Her poetry has appeared in four anthologies, "The Remembered Earth," "Voices of the Rainbow," "The Third Woman," and "Song From This Earth on Turtle's Back."

Her new novel, published in March of this year, is "The Jailing of Cecilia Capture." It has drawn favorable response from reviewers around the country who cite her use of her own Native American heritage in developing the novel. The New York Review of Books commented that Hale's work contained, "Rich detail, authentic dialogue and unfurnished prose."

Hale also has published a children's novel, "The Owl Song."

Janet Campbell Hale's visit to the PSU campus is sponsored by the United Indian Students in Higher Education, the PSU English Majors Association, and the Women's Studies Program, with support from the Academically Controlled Auxiliary Activities Committee.

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